



SWARC NEWS

Notes from K7RLH

Look for more about the March meeting program further down in this newsletter. Raffle tickets for two \$250.00 gift cards are available and I will continue to hand them out in the near future. If you reach out to me, I will meet you somewhere for the handoff. The raffle will be drawn at 6:00 pm on June 24th, the Saturday of the Field Day weekend.

We ask you to keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Gary, KO4LQX, Kenny, KJ4CVK, Velda, K4VJC, Mike, KD4MC, and Steve, KA0GMY.

Steve, KA0GMY, is reportedly doing better, but tires easily, so remember him, Steve Jr., and Miss Gloria as well (particularly).

As I reported, Gary Plante, KO4LQX, had a recurrence of cancer in the larynx and I have already reported the latest info, so keep sending those prayers up for him.

Velda, K4VJC, continues to make improvement; it appears that she is about to be released and can come back to NC and go into a local facility. Velda's continued recovery is a testament to the power of our prayers.

Kenny, KJ4CVK, may or may not be in Wake Med in the Step Forward program learning how to use his new prosthetic legs; I don't have a current update. He needs our prayer support as well.

Look for other news and info in the body of the newsletter.

SWARC de K7RLH

Notes from KO4ZFO

Welcome members! It was good to see all of those in attendance at this month's meeting. First, let me throw a big thank you out to Brian, KK4BK, for bringing his To-Go box and assisting with the presentation. It was nice to have another example to help in showing what a To-Go Box is, and can be. Many thanks Brian! If any of you want to start building your own, please feel free to reach out to me or any other members in the group. We are glad to help.

Just a couple of reminders for the month.

RARSfest is just around the corner on April 8th, and we still need volunteers to work the club table and the flea market table. If you are planning on going, please help us watch these tables for as long as you have. If you can help, please let Richard know.

T-shirts should be ready by our next meeting. If you are interested, please email the size(s) you want. Since this was a small batch order, quantities and sizes are limited. This is a short sleeve T-Shirt with no front pocket. The SWARC emblem will be printed on the left breast and on the back of the shirt. This is a non-event specific shirt, so it can be anywhere. Shirts will be \$15. If this batch sells out, we can discuss getting another batch made in May.

We will be having a booth at the NC State Fair this year. This is a non-club affiliated booth. The purpose of the booth is to promote HAM Radio in North Carolina. We will be putting out club information, with contact information and website details to promote all of the clubs in the area. Please keep in mind that this is not a JARS only booth. This opportunity was created by a few members from JARS, but was not intended to only promote the JARS or RARS community. The JARSCOMM response vehicle is brought there with the intention of showing what

HAMs have to offer to the Public. With that being said, come on out and support HAM radio and SWARC. If you would like to volunteer, please keep in contact with me. I will also be putting out reminders on this as time moves forward.

Thanks again,
Rodney Warren - KO4ZFO
SWARC VP

SWARC 1 March 2023 Meeting Recap

Since we currently have no club secretary, here is a recap of the meeting.

The food was sort of a mixed bag, consisting of finger foods, lots of desserts, and a wonderful potato/chicken casserole courtesy of Paul Nicholson. We were a bit short on main dishes, but I didn't hear any real complaints.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by introductions around the room and Christy's treasurer report.

In-Person Attendees included:

Richard Hall (K7RLH), Bill Blomgren (KK4QDZ), Rodney Warren (KO4ZFO), Al Crawford (WA4TCJ), guest Rich Gehle (N4DPQ), Brian Knox (KK4BK), Dave Krum (NW3U), Christy Fernandini (KJ4AEO), Don Nicholson (KN4OEY), Paul Nicholson (KN4NGI), Mike Gaither (K4MWG), Steve Suzanne (WB4SMS), Chris Raba (KC2HVO), Robert Walker (no call yet) and guests Ted Root (N1UJ), and Thomas McCullough (KO4WXJ who filled out an application).

Old/Unfinished Business

None.

We only have one key to the radio room, which is kept in the lock box by the door. Members wishing to access the radio room should contact one of the officers for the key box combination.

New Business

None.

Food for Thought (Not Edible-LOL)

Al Crawford (WA4TCJ) has determined that name tags will cost about \$11.00 which includes shipping cost. Please contact Al directly at wa4tcj@juno.com if you wish to obtain a name tag—be sure to give him your name and call sign.

Presentation Topic (Ham Go-Boxes)

Both Rodney, KO4ZFO, and Brian, KK4BK, brought their versions of a go-box. Rodney's was tailored to 2 m/70 cm operation and it was in a small case that included a battery and a power strip as well as the radio.

Brian's HF go-box was similar to others we have seen in that it utilized a hard case with removable back and front panels to allow access to equipment contained on racks within. Brian noted that he deliberately made his in a configuration that could allow use on the desk or in the back of his truck.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Christy Fernandini reported little change in the finances during February. Balance \$1,608.64 with no obligated funds or invoices.

MEMBERSHIP

You can bring a check or cash for dues to the next meeting or mail them to the club PO box and Christy will let me know she has received them. Also, you can now renew somewhat online by contacting Christy and giving her the appropriate credit card info for the 'Square' account. Christy's email is christyfernandini@outlook.com. Make checks payable to South Wake ARC. Send it to South Wake ARC – PO Box 1565 – Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

NET REPORT

SWARC Group – February 2023

We have four individuals who can be referred to as net check in champs for February; they are Bill, KK4QDZ, Richard, K7RLH, and Al, WA3JJG, and Al, WA4TCJ, who were tied for third. The monthly total of check-ins was 196—significantly down from last month! Note that **not** all net controls record their counts so numbers could be higher than recorded.

- Saturday and Sunday evenings will be called by KT4JR & K7RLH
- KO4ZFO will call Monday evenings
- KA0GMY will call Tuesday evenings (backup is K7RLH)
- KK4BK will call Wednesday evenings except on meeting nights
- Thursday evenings will be open when Kenny enters Wake Med**
- Fridays will continue to be called by NC4MP
- And we need backups – JUST BECAUSE.

Please contact Richard Hall, K7RLH, if you are interested in calling one or more nets.

Public Service

Check the HPSNC.org web site often for Public Service opportunities. The public service season is upon us and events need volunteers. You may also get to public service events on the RARS website.

Dave Krum (NW3U), reminded us of public service events beginning with ‘Odyssey of the Mind’ on March 4th and 25th and also the Walk MS event on March 25th. Other events will follow throughout the remainder of the year.

SWARC Mission Statement

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of its members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Richard Hall--K7RLH

Vice President

Rodney Warren—KO4ZFO

Secretary

Vacant

Treasurer

Christy Fernandini - KJ4AEO

Member-At-Large

Al Crawford – WA4TCJ

Member-At-Large

Bernie Jones – N4BAJ

Member-At-Large

Mike Gaither –
K4MWG

Member-At-Large

Brian Knox--KK4BK

Membership Chair

Steve Suzanne—
WB4SMS

Appointed Positions

NET MANAGER

Kenny Souther-KJ4CVK

Special Events Director

Gino Fernandini –KI4YXO

Public Service Director

David Krum – NW3U

LINKS (if you have other links you want added then send them to me)

PRN

A Wide Area Digital Amateur Radio Network

www.ncprn.net

GigaParts

www.gigaparts.com

QRZ

www.qrz.com

Ham Radio Outlet HRO

www.hamradio.com

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society RARS

www.rars.org

Johnson Amateur Radio Society JARS

www.jars..net

South Wake Amateur Radio Club SWARC

www.southwakearc.com

Carolina 440 Network

www.carolina440.net

_North Carolina Packet

www.ncpacket.com

_TARPN (Terrestrial Amateur Packet Radio Net)

www.tarpn.net

Useful Ham Info

www.torborg.com/a

_Car Radio Development History

<https://www.titlemax.com/articles/the-history-of-the-car-radio/>

ARRL News

In Brief...

The phone portion of the ARRL International DX Contest runs March 4 - 5, 2023. The event is dedicated to DX contacts only. US and Canadian stations may only contact DX stations and vice versa. The goal of the event is for operators to expand their knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, and to improve their operating skills and station capabilities. Participants may only use the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15-, and 10-meter bands. You can [read the complete rules here](#). This contest is an opportunity for stations to earn points in the yearlong Volunteers On the Air (VOTA) operating event. Each ARRL member is worth one point, and volunteers are [worth even more](#). Refer to the [VOTA web page](#) for more information. Logs submitted to ARRL's Logbook of The World are automatically tallied for points.

The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin, ARLP009:

This was a busy week for geomagnetic storms. A solar wind stream from an equatorial hole and a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) seemingly blew geomagnetic numbers off the scale, with the planetary A index on Monday hitting 94. An aurora was visible as far south as Colorado.

This week, the source of the 10.7-centimeter solar flux from the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in Kaleden, British Columbia, was again saturated by solar wind on February 25, and the measurement was 279.3. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) corrected this to 152, which I thought was a bit too low. The other recent saturation was on February 17, at 343.1, but for some reason, the NOAA let this stand.

<https://services.swpc.noaa.gov/text/daily-solar-indices.txt>

Average daily sunspot numbers rose from 107 to 126.3, but average daily solar flux declined from 162.4 to 158.2.

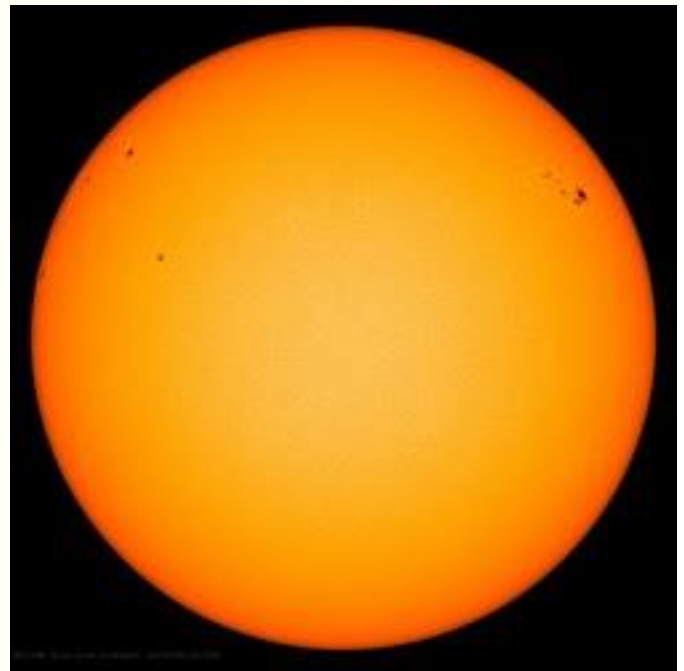
Average daily planetary A index rose from 10.6 to 27.7.

Over the next few weeks, it appears that solar flux values should hit a peak around March 17 - 18.

Predicted solar flux is 164, 162, and 158 on March 2 - 4; 154 on March 5 - 8; 165 on March 9 - 12; 170 on March 13 - 15; 175 on March 16; 180 on March 17 - 18; 175, 170, and 165 on March 19 - 21; 160 on March 22 - 23; 155 on March 24 - 26; 150 on March 27 - 28; 145 on March 29 - 30, and 140, 145, 150, 155, and 160 on March 31 through April 4.

Predicted planetary A index is 8, 5, 12, 18, 24, 14, and 8 on March 2 - 8; 5 on March 9 - 14; 15, 8, 8, 5, 8, and 15 on March 15 - 20; 5 on March 21 - 23; 12, 16, 56, 32, 16, and 10 on March 24 - 29; 8 on March 30 - 31, and 16, 18, and 15 on April 1 - 3.

The predicted A index of 56 and 32 on March 26 - 27 suggests a return of this week's disturbance in



Solar disk image taken March 2, 2023, courtesy of NASA SDO/HM.

the next solar rotation.

Newsweek reported a radio blackout at the following link:

<https://bit.ly/3YsJREJ>

Sky & Telescope also reported on aurora season:

<https://bit.ly/3ZbC1As>

The News Tribune wrote a story about the northern lights:

<https://bit.ly/3ymZrqR>

The above story features western Washington, where I live. Unfortunately, the sky was overcast, but folks in eastern Washington were able to see the aurora. Remember that many of the images you see were from cameras with a long exposure time, which makes them much brighter than what can be seen with the naked eye.

Thanks to spaceweather.com for this NASA video clip of sunspot group AR3234 growing as it comes over our sun's eastern limb:

<https://bit.ly/3J1IliJ>

Sunspot numbers for February 23 through March 1, 2023, were 108, 130, 129, 120, 192, 100, and 105, with a mean of 107. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 148.2, 164.1, 152, 159, 161.2, 160.9, and 162, with a mean of 162.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 22, 6, 10, 26, 94, 28, and 8, with a mean of 10.6. Middle latitude A index was 16, 4, 9, 18, 60, 19, and 6, with a mean of 8.4.

73,

K7RA

Send your tips, questions, or comments to k7ra@arrl.net.

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, [read](#) "What the Numbers Mean..." and [check out](#) the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin [archive](#) is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio](#) website.

[Share](#) your reports and observations.

A weekly, full report is posted on [ARRL News](#).

Just Ahead in Radiosport

Yearlong -- [ARRL Volunteers On the Air](#) (VOTA). See also the State Activations Schedule for weekly [W1AW Portable Operations](#), including these:

- March 8 - March 15 -- Kentucky, W1AW/4
- March 8 - March 15 -- Idaho, W1AW/7
- March 15 - March 21 -- Virginia, W1AW/4
- March 15 - March 21 -- Ohio, W1AW/8

Upcoming Contests:

Visit the [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) for more events and information.



Upcoming Section, State, and Division Conventions

- March 18 | [MARC St. Patricks Day Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL West Texas Section, Midland, Texas
- March 18 | [Charleston Area Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL West Virginia Section Convention, Charleston, West Virginia
- March 24 - 25 | [ARRL Maine State Convention and Hamfest](#), Lewiston, Maine
- March 25 - 26 | [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) (online)
- April 7 - 8 | [Green Country Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Oklahoma Section Convention, Claremore, Oklahoma
- April 8 | [Raleigh Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL North Carolina State Convention, Raleigh, North Carolina
- April 15 | [Sussex Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo](#), hosting the ARRL Delaware State Convention, Georgetown, Delaware.

Search the [ARRL Hamfest and Convention Database](#) to find events in your area.

Have News for ARRL?

Submissions for the ARRL Letter and ARRL News can be sent to news@arrl.org. -- John E. Ross, KD8IDJ, ARRL News [Editor](#)

Announcements

The Virginia QSO Party (VQP) and Virginia's Volunteers On the Air (VOTA) Activation of W1AW/4 are set for the weekend of March 18 - 19, 2023. Virginia amateur radio operators will, at the same time, celebrate the contributions of thousands of ARRL volunteers during Virginia's activation of the Volunteers On the Air event by contacting W1AW/4 during the VQP. In fact, W1AW/4 will be active from March 15 - 21, 2023. VQP planners are working to activate in some of the rare counties to help increase the chances of earning a Worked all VA Counties award. VQP Rules are at: https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2023_VQP/2023_VAQP_Rules.pdf.

ARRL VOTA rules are at: <http://www.arrl.org/volunteers-on-the-air>.

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 48 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>.

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ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio®
225 Main Street, Newington CT, 06111-1400 USA
860-594-0200

www.arrl.org